

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Previously presented) A method of determining information for accessing an electronic mail account according to an electronic mail protocol, comprising:

receiving an address for delivering electronic mail to an electronic mail account;

receiving a password for accessing the electronic mail account;

extracting, from the address, a user name and an electronic mail account domain for the electronic mail account; and

determining whether the electronic mail account domain, user name and password can be used to access the electronic mail account according to the electronic mail protocol, wherein the step of determining whether the electronic mail account domain, user name and password can be used to access the electronic mail account according to the electronic mail protocol includes determining if the electronic mail account domain is included in a list of closed domains that do not include server computers employing the electronic mail protocol; and

if the electronic mail account domain is not included in the list of closed domains; accessing a list of known domains, such that at least one sever computer known to employ the electronic mail protocol is associated with each of the known domains;

mapping the electronic mail account domain against the list of known domains; and

if the electronic mail account domain is included in the list of known domains,

attempting to access the electronic mail account at one or more of the server computers associated with the electronic mail account domain using the user name and password.

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim [[3]] 2, wherein, if only one computer server employing the electronic mail protocol is associated with the electronic mail account domain and the electronic mail account cannot be accessed through the one computer server, then prompting a user to resubmit the user name and password for the electronic mail account, and attempting to access the electronic mail account at the one computer server according to the electronic mail protocol by using the resubmitted user name and password.

Claim 5. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the user is prompted to resubmit the user name by resubmitting the address for delivering electronic mail to the electronic mail account.

Claim 6. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein, if the electronic mail account cannot be accessed at the one computer server according to the electronic mail protocol by using the resubmitted user name and password, further including:

concatenating a server name prefix with the electronic mail account domain to form a default name for a server computer; and

attempting to access the electronic mail account according to the electronic mail protocol by using the default name, the user name and the password.

Claim 7. (Original) The method recited in claim 6, wherein the server name prefix is selected from the group consisting of: "mail.", "pop.", and "pop3."

Claim 8. (Original) The method recited in claim 6, wherein, if the electronic mail account cannot be accessed according to the electronic mail protocol by using the default server name, the user name and the password, further including the step of prompting a user to provide a server name for accessing the electronic mail account.

Claim 9. (Original) The method recited in claim 5, wherein, if the electronic mail account domain is not included in the list of known domains, further including

concatenating a server name prefix with the electronic mail account domain to form a default name for a server computer; and

attempting to access the electronic mail account according to the electronic mail protocol by using the default name, the user name and the password.

Claim 10. (Original) The method recited in claim 9, wherein the server name prefix is selected from the group consisting of: "mail.", "pop.", and "pop3."

Claim 11. (Original) The method recited in claim 9, wherein, if the electronic mail account cannot be accessed according to the electronic mail protocol by using the default

server name, the user name and the password, further including the step of prompting a user to provide a server name for accessing the electronic mail account.

Claims 12-20. (Cancelled)

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A method of determining information for accessing an electronic mail account according to an electronic mail protocol, comprising:

receiving an address for delivering electronic mail to an electronic mail account;

receiving a password for accessing the electronic mail account;

extracting, from the address, a user name and an electronic mail account domain for the electronic mail account; and

determining whether the electronic mail account domain, user name and password can be used to access the electronic mail account according to the electronic mail protocol, wherein the step of determining whether the electronic mail account domain, user name and password can be used to access the electronic mail account according to the electronic mail protocol includes:

concatenating a server name prefix with the electronic mail account domain to form a default name for a server computer; and

attempting to access the electronic mail account according to the electronic mail protocol by using the default name, the user name and the password;

determining if the electronic mail account domain is included in a list of closed domains that do not include server computers employing the electronic mail protocol; and

if the electronic mail account domain is not included in the list of closed domains;

accessing a list of known domains, such that at least one server computer known to employ the electronic mail protocol is associated with each of the known domains;
mapping the electronic mail account domain against the list of known domains; and
if the electronic mail account domain is included in the list of known domains,
attempting to access the electronic mail account at one or more of the server computers associated with the electronic mail account domain using the user name and password.

Claim 22. (Original) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the server name prefix is selected from the group consisting of: "mail.", "pop.", and "pop3."

Claim 23. (Original) The method recited in claim 21, wherein, if the electronic mail account cannot be accessed using the default server name, the user name and the address, further including prompting a user to provide a server name for accessing the electronic mail account.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The method recited in claim 2, wherein the electronic mail protocol is selected from the group consisting of: the post office protocol, the Internet message access protocol, the Microsoft Exchange electronic mail protocol, and the Lotus Notes electronic mail protocol.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The method recited in claim 2, wherein the address and password are received from a user of the electronic mail account.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The method recited in claim 2, wherein the address and password are received from an electronic mail messaging software application.

Claims 27-35. (Cancelled)